

SD 4.1 Sexually Experienced Teens

Sexual experience—defined as ever having had sexual intercourse, and age at first intercourse represent critical indicators of the risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Youth who begin having sex at a younger age are exposed to these risks over a longer period of time. Because sexual intercourse during the teen years, especially first intercourse, is often unplanned,⁶⁴ it is also often unprotected by contraception.⁶⁵ In addition, research has shown that youth who have an early sexual experience are more likely at later ages to have more sexual partners and more frequent intercourse.⁶⁶

Differences by Age. Age is the most important correlate of teen sexual experience. By the late teen years, most teens are sexually experienced. However, the younger a woman is at the time of first intercourse, the more likely she is to report her first experience as being nonvoluntary. Twenty-four percent of women 13 years of age or younger at the time of first premarital intercourse reported it as nonvoluntary compared to 10 percent of women in the 19-24 age range.⁶⁷ Data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey show that, for 9th-grade students in 1999, 39 percent reported having had sexual intercourse. This percentage rises with each grade, reaching 65 percent by the 12th grade (see Table SD 4.1.B).

Differences by Gender. More teen males than females reported having had intercourse by a given age. Data from the 1985-1987 cohort suggest that the proportion of teen males at each year of age who report having sex was roughly equal to the rate of sexually experienced teen females who are one year older (see Table SD 4.1.A). Among female adolescents of all ages, the percentage who were sexually experienced has increased over time (see Table SD 4.1.A). For example, the percentage of 18-year-old females who were sexually experienced increased from 27 percent for the 1958-1960 cohort to 55 percent for the 1990-1994 cohort.⁶⁷

Data for students from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicate that in 1999, 9th grade males reported having had sex at a rate 12 percentage points higher than females (45 versus 33 percent). By the 12th grade, however, females were just as likely as males to report ever having sex (see Table SD 4.1.B).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁶⁸ Black, non-Hispanic students in grades 9 through 12 are more likely than White, non-Hispanic and Hispanic students to have had their first sexual experience while still in high school (see Table SD 4.1.B). Specifically, in 1999, 45 percent of both male and female White, non-Hispanic students reported having had sexual intercourse, compared to 63 percent of Hispanic male students and 46 percent of Hispanic females, and 76 percent of Black, non-Hispanic male students and 67 percent of Black, non-Hispanic female students.

⁶⁴ Lowenstein, G., and Furstenberg, F.F. 1991. Is Teenage Sexual Behavior Rational? *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 21(12):957-986; Abma, J., Driscoll, A., and Moore, K. 1998. Young Women's Degree of Control over First Intercourse: An Exploratory Analysis. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 30(1):12-18.

⁶⁵ Forrest, J.D., and Singh, S. 1990. The Sexual and Reproductive Behavior of American Women, 1982-1988. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 22(5):206-214.

⁶⁶ Koyle, P., Jensen, L., Olsen, J., and Cundick, B. 1989. Comparison of Sexual Behaviors among Adolescents Having an Early, Middle, and Late First Intercourse Experience. *Youth and Society*, 20(4):461-475.

⁶⁷ Abma, J., et al., 1998. Young Women's Degree of Control over First Time Intercourse: An Exploratory Analysis. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 30(1):12-18.

⁶⁸ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Table SD 4.1.A

Percentage of youth in the United States who have ever had intercourse by each age, by gender: Cohorts^a age 20 in 1958-1960, 1970-1972, 1985-1987, and 1990-1994

Age at first intercourse	Females who turned age 20 in: ^b			
	1958-1960	1970-1972	1985-1987	1990-1994
13	1	0	2	—
14	2	1	5	—
15	3	4	10	11
16	8	9	21	—
17	16	20	36	—
18	27	35	52	55
19	46	53	66	—
20	61	68	76	75

Age at first intercourse	Males who turned age 20 in: ^b			
	1958-1960	1970-1972	1985-1987	1990-1994
13	—	11	9	—
14	—	15	13	—
15	—	20	27	—
16	—	30	41	—
17	—	41	52	—
18	—	55	64	—
19	—	67	75	—
20	—	74	80	—

^a Cohorts are defined as those individuals who turned 20 years old within the specified time period.

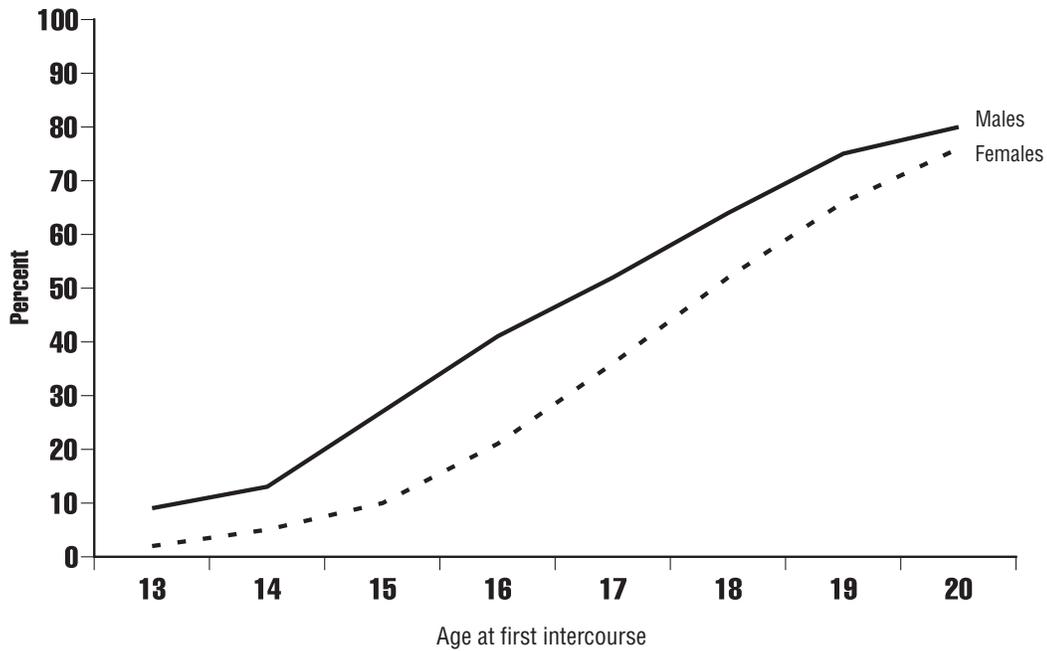
^b Data are based on females ages 30-32 and 42-44 in the 1982 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), ages 21-23 and 36-38 in the 1988 NSFG, and ages 25-29 in the 1995 NSFG and males ages 21-23 and 36-38 in the 1991 Survey of Men.

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1994, (Figures 11 and 12); Abma et al., 1997, (Table 20).

Behavioral Health: Sexual Activity and Fertility

Figure SD 4.1

Percentage of youth in the United States who have had intercourse, by age and gender: Cohort^a age 20 in 1985-1987



^a Cohorts are defined as those individuals who turned 20 years old within the specified time period.

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1994.

Table SD 4.1.B

Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 in the United States who reported ever having sexual intercourse, by gender, grade, and race and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1995-1999

	1995			1997			1999		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	53	54	52	48	49	48	50	52	48
Grade									
Ninth	37	41	32	38	42	34	39	45	33
Tenth	48	50	46	43	42	44	47	51	43
Eleventh	59	57	60	50	49	50	53	51	54
Twelfth	66	67	66	61	60	62	65	64	66
Race and Hispanic origin^a									
White, non-Hispanic	49	49	49	44	43	44	45	45	45
Black, non-Hispanic	73	81	67	73	80	66	71	76	67
Hispanic	58	62	53	52	58	46	54	63	46

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Kann et al., 1998, (Table 26); Kann et al., 1996, (Table 26).

SD 4.2 Sexually Active Teens

Having become sexually experienced does not necessarily mean teenagers will be sexually active from that point on. They may still abstain from intercourse out of concern for the risk of pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases or a preference for abstinence, or they may experience periods in which they do not have a sexual partner; nevertheless, research indicates that once a person has had sex, he or she is likely to continue to be sexually active. Among young adults ages 18 through 22 who had ever had intercourse, over 70 percent had a second experience of intercourse within 6 months of first intercourse.⁶⁹

The percentage of teens in grades 9 through 12 who are sexually active—defined as having had sexual intercourse in the previous 3 months—has remained steady, with little variation, from 1991 to 1999 (see Table SD 4.2).

Differences by Gender. There is no difference between the percentages of male and female students who are sexually active. In 1999, 36 percent of males and 36 percent of females reported being sexually active.

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁷⁰ In 1999, Black, non-Hispanic students were, at 53 percent, more likely than either White, non-Hispanic (33 percent) or Hispanic (36 percent) students to be sexually active (see Figure SD 4.2).

Differences by Grade. The percentage of teens who are sexually active rises as grade increases. Twelfth-grade students are nearly twice as likely to be sexually active as are 9th-grade students (see Table SD 4.2).

⁶⁹ Moore, K.A., and Peterson, J.L. August 1989. *The Consequences of Teenage Pregnancy*. Final Report to NICHD and ASPE/HHS, Grant No. HD 21537.

⁷⁰ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Table SD 4.2

Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 in the United States who reported having had sexual intercourse in the previous 3 months, by gender, race and Hispanic origin, grade, and age: Selected years, 1991-1999

	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Total	38	38	38	35	36
Gender					
Male	37	38	36	33	36
Female	38	38	40	37	36
Race and Hispanic origin^a					
White, non-Hispanic	34	34	35	32	33
Black, non-Hispanic	59	59	54	54	53
Hispanic	37	39	39	35	36
Grade					
Ninth	22	25	24	24	27
Tenth	33	30	34	29	33
Eleventh	43	40	42	38	38
Twelfth	51	53	50	46	51
Age					
15	24	25	28	26	27
16	38	35	37	32	35
15 or 16	31	31	32	29	32

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Data for 1991: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1990-1991 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, (Table 1); data for 1993: Kann et al., 1995. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 44(SS-1): (Table 20); data for 1995: Kann et al., 1996, (Table 26); data for 1997: Kann et al., 1998, (Table 26); and Kann et al., 2000, (Table 30).

SD 4.3 Contraceptive Use by Teens

Sexual intercourse without contraception puts a teen at risk of unintended pregnancy and of contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS. The vast majority of teens do not want to become pregnant. Data from a national survey show that among teens who had first intercourse at age 17 or younger, fewer than 1 in 100 wanted a pregnancy to occur at that time. This was true for both males and females and for both Blacks and Whites.⁷¹ Even among adolescents who give birth as a teenager, only 34 percent of the births are intended.⁷²

Condoms and birth control pills are the most common forms of contraception used by sexually active teenagers.⁷³ In 1999, over half (58 percent) of sexually experienced students in grades 9 through 12 reported use of a condom during their last sexual intercourse, while only 16 percent reported use of the birth control pill (see Tables SD 4.3.A and SD 4.3.B).

Differences by Gender. Female students are less likely than male students to report having used a condom during their last intercourse (51 percent of females versus 66 percent of males in 1999).

Differences by Grade. Condom use among 12th-grade students is lower than among students in the earlier grades. The decrease is largest among young women, dropping from 50 percent to 41 percent between the 11th and 12th grades in 1999. In contrast, in 1999, only 12 percent of sexually experienced 9th graders reported use of the pill, while 25 percent of 12th graders reported its use (see Figure SD 4.3).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁷⁴ Black, non-Hispanic students report the highest use of condoms, while White, non-Hispanic students report the highest use of the pill. In 1999, White, non-Hispanic students were more likely to have used the pill during their last sexual intercourse (21 percent) than were either Black, non-Hispanic students (8 percent) or Hispanic students (8 percent) (see Tables SD 4.3.A and SD 4.3.B).

It is important to note that the data presented here include only those teens who are in school. Teens out of school may have different rates of contraceptive use.

⁷¹ Moore and Peterson, August 1989. See also preliminary results of research from the 1995 National Survey of Adolescent Males and the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth, The Urban Institute Fact Sheet (May 1, 1997), *New Data on Sexual Behaviors of Teenage Males*.

⁷² In the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth, the percentage of births intended at the time of conception to women ages 15 through 44 that occurred 5 years prior to the survey interview were as follows: 69 percent to all mothers, 34 percent to mothers under 20, 61 percent to mothers ages 20 through 24, 78 percent to mothers ages 25 through 29, and 80 percent to mothers ages 30 through 44. Abma, J.C., Chandra, A., Mosher, W.D., Peterson, L., and Piccinino, L. 1997. Fertility, Family Planning, and Women's Health: New Data from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Health Statistics*, 23(19), (Table 14).

⁷³ Peterson, L.S. 1995. Contraceptive Use in the United States: 1982-90. *Advance Data*, No. 260, Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Data from the National Survey of Family Growth.

⁷⁴ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Table SD 4.3.A

Percentage of currently sexually active^a high school students in the United States who reported using a condom during last sexual intercourse, by gender, grade, and race and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1993-1999

	1993			1995			1997			1999		
	Total	Male	Female									
Total	53	59	46	54	61	49	57	63	51	58	66	51
Grade												
Ninth	62	63	59	63	66	59	59	59	58	67	70	63
Tenth	55	63	46	60	68	52	59	65	53	63	70	55
Eleventh	55	65	46	52	57	49	60	65	55	59	69	50
Twelfth	47	52	41	50	57	43	52	61	43	48	56	41
Race and Hispanic origin^b												
White, non-Hispanic	52	59	46	53	58	48	56	62	49	55	63	48
Black, non-Hispanic	57	64	48	66	72	61	64	68	59	70	75	65
Hispanic	46	55	37	44	56	33	48	55	40	55	66	43

^a “Currently sexually active” is defined as having had sexual intercourse during the 3 months preceding the survey.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Data for 1993: Kann et al., 1995, (Table 20); data for 1995: Kann et al., 1996, (Table 28); data for 1997: Kann 1998, (Table 28); data for 1999: Kann et al., 2000, (Table 32).

Table SD 4.3.B

Percentage of currently sexually active^a high school students in the United States who reported birth control pill use during last sexual intercourse, by gender, grade, and race and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1993-1999

	1993			1995			1997			1999		
	Total	Male	Female									
Total	18	15	22	17	14	20	17	13	21	16	12	20
Grade												
Ninth	9	8	11	11	10	13	8	8	8	12	11	13
Tenth	14	10	17	12	9	16	12	8	17	9	6	13
Eleventh	17	12	22	15	13	17	16	12	19	15	12	18
Twelfth	26	23	29	25	21	29	24	19	30	25	17	31
Race and Hispanic origin^b												
White, non-Hispanic	20	17	24	21	17	25	21	17	25	21	16	26
Black, non-Hispanic	15	11	21	10	8	12	12	9	15	8	3	12
Hispanic	12	10	15	11	14	9	10	7	13	8	5	11

^a “Currently sexually active” is defined as having had sexual intercourse during the 3 months preceding the survey.

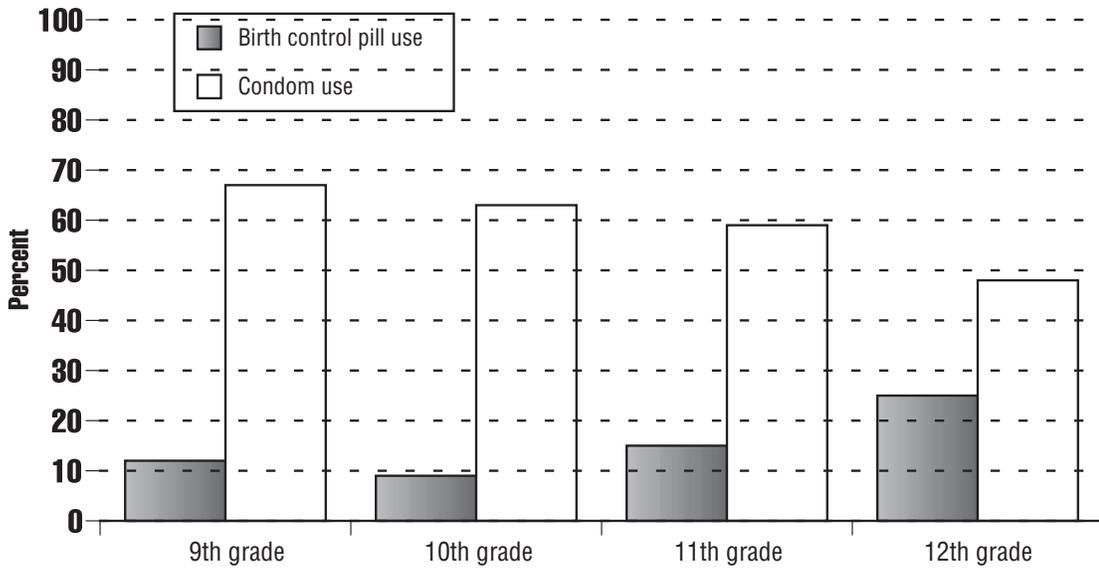
^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Data for 1993: Kann et al., 1995, (Table 20); data for 1995: Kann et al., 1996, (Table 28); data for 1997: Kann et al., 1998, (Table 28); Kann et al., 2000, (Table 32).

Behavioral Health: Sexual Activity and Fertility

Figure SD 4.3

Percentage of currently sexually active^a high school students in the United States who reported using a contraceptive during their last sexual intercourse, by grade and method: 1999



^a “Currently sexually active” is defined as having had sexual intercourse during the 3 months preceding the survey.

Source: Kann et al., 2000, (Table 32).

SD 4.4 Number of Sexual Partners

Having multiple sexual partners represents an important behavioral risk factor for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, among adolescents, especially if they fail to use condoms correctly and consistently. Alcohol use, illicit drug use, and young age at first intercourse are also associated with increased odds of multiple sexual partners.⁷⁵

Differences by Gender. Male youth generally report a higher number of sexual partners than do female youth. In 1995, 6 percent of sexually active males and 3 percent of sexually active females ages 15 through 19 reported having five or more sexual partners in a year. The number of sexual partners per year among sexually active females is concentrated at the lower end of the scale, with either zero or one partners most likely to be reported (see Table SD 4.4.A). Among high school students surveyed in 1999, 19 percent of males reported having had four or more sexual partners in their lifetime, compared with 13 percent of female students (see Table SD 4.4.B).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁷⁶ Black, non-Hispanic high school students are more likely to report having had four or more sexual partners in their lifetime than their White, non-Hispanic or Hispanic peers: 34 percent versus 12 and 17 percent, respectively, in 1999 (see Table SD 4.4.B).

Table SD 4.4.A

Percentage distribution of number of sexual partners in a year among sexually active teens ages 15 through 19 in the United States, by gender: 1995

	0 Partners	1 Partner	2 Partners	3-4 Partners	5 or more Partners
Males	10	44	26	14	6
Females	8	62	17	10	3

Source: Analyses of the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 5, Sonenstein, et al., 1997.

⁷⁵ Santelli et al., 1998. Multiple Sexual Partners Among U.S. Adolescents and Young Adults. *Family Planning Perspectives* 30(6).

⁷⁶ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Table SD 4.4.B

Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 in the United States who reported having four or more sex partners during lifetime, by gender, grade, and race and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1993-1999

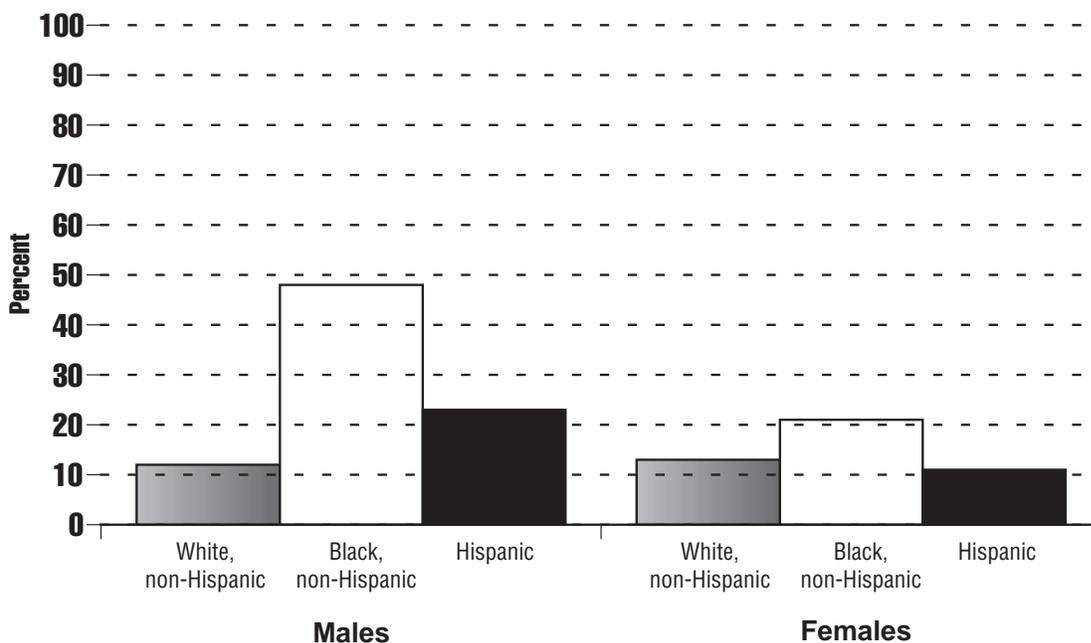
	1993			1995			1997			1999		
	Total	Male	Female									
Total	19	22	15	18	21	14	16	18	14	16	19	13
Grade												
Ninth	11	15	6	13	18	7	12	16	8	12	16	8
Tenth	16	19	13	16	20	11	14	16	12	16	21	10
Eleventh	20	23	16	19	21	17	17	17	16	17	19	15
Twelfth	27	31	23	23	25	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Race and Hispanic origin^a												
White, non-Hispanic	14	15	13	14	15	13	12	11	12	12	12	13
Black, non-Hispanic	43	59	27	36	52	22	39	53	25	34	48	21
Hispanic	19	26	11	18	24	12	16	20	10	17	23	11

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Data for 1993: Kann et al., 1995, (Table 20); data for 1995: Kann et al., 1996, (Table 26); data for 1997: Kann et al., 1998, (Table 26); data for 1999: Kann et al., 2000, (Table 30).

Figure SD 4.4

Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 in the United States who reported having four or more sex partners during lifetime by gender and race and Hispanic origin:^a 1999



^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Kann et al., 2000, (Table 30).

SD 4.5 Teen Pregnancy and Abortion

Four in ten young women become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20—nearly one million a year.⁷⁷ Eight in ten of these pregnancies are unintended⁷⁸ and 79 percent are to unmarried teens.⁷⁹ The United States has the highest teen pregnancy and legal *abortion* rates among Western nations. The teen pregnancy rate in the United States is twice as high as that in England, Wales, and Canada; three times as high as that in Sweden; and seven times as high as that in the Netherlands.⁸⁰ The Society for Adolescent Medicine cites a multitude of factors, including the lack of sex education, inadequate access to reliable contraception, poverty, and substance abuse, as some of the reasons for these high rates. The lack of contraception use among teens is cited as one of the many reasons teens are becoming pregnant. Contraception use among sexually active teens has increased but remains inconsistent.⁸¹

Pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy rates have declined considerably in the 1990s. The overall pregnancy rate for women ages 15-19 years in 1997 has decreased 19 percent from its high point in 1991 (See Table SD 4.5.A). Among the factors accounting for the overall decrease in teenage pregnancy rates are 1) a decrease in sexual activity, 2) increased condom use, and 3) the adoption of Depo-Provera and Norplant contraception methods.⁸² Furthermore, societal influences may have also combined to reduce the pregnancy rate among teens. One is changing attitudes towards premarital sex. Many public and private initiatives have focused attention on the importance of pregnancy prevention through abstinence. The sexual activity of teens is also closely associated with simple measures of economic prosperity. As a result of the long economic expansion of the 1990s, teenagers' educational and occupational goals may have changed, with more value placed on school completion and entering the work force.⁸³

Differences by Age. Pregnancy is more prevalent among older teens. For older teens (18 or 19 years) the pregnancy rate was more than twice that for younger teens (15 to 17 years) in 1997, a gap that has been apparent throughout the 1990s. This trend reflects the fact the older teens are more sexually active than younger ones.⁸⁴

⁷⁷ Analysis of Henshaw, S.K., *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics*, New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, May 1996; and Forest, J.D., *Proportion of U.S. Women Ever Pregnant Before Age 20*, New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1986, unpublished.

⁷⁸ Henshaw, S.K. 1998. Unintended pregnancy in the United States. *Family Perspectives*, 30(1):24-29, 46. Based on data from 1982, 1988, and 1995 cycles of the National Survey of Family Growth, supplemented by data from other sources.

⁷⁹ Ventura, et al. 2001. *Births*.

⁸⁰ Singh & Darroch. 2000. Adolescent Pregnancy and Childbearing: Levels and Trends in Developed Countries. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 32(1):14-23. Society for Adolescent Medicine. 1991. Position Paper on Reproductive Health Care for Adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 12:649-661.

⁸¹ Alan Guttmacher Institute. 1994. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. New York and Washington, DC: Author.

⁸² Ventura, Mosher, Curtin, Abma and Henshaw, 2001. Trends in Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1976-2007: An Update. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Ibid; Abma and Sonenstein, 2001. Sexual Activity and Contraceptive Practices Among Teenagers in the United States 1998 and 1995. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 23(21). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁸⁵ The pregnancy rates for Black, non-Hispanic and Hispanic teenagers are about twice as high as the rate for White, non-Hispanic teenagers. The lower rate for White, non-Hispanic teenagers is due to both the smaller proportion of sexually active teens and lower pregnancy rates for those who are sexually active. (See Table SD 4.5A).

Abortion

The proportion of females ages 15 through 19 who obtained an abortion during the previous year increased 2.1 percent between 1973 and 1985, presumably influenced both by the legalization of abortion and increasing levels of sexual activity and pregnancy. By 1992, however, the number obtaining abortions had dropped to 3.6 percent and has continued to decline, reaching 2.8 percent in 1997.

The percentage of teens who are sexually experienced has increased during the past several decades; therefore, it is reasonable to consider abortion in light of this trend. When abortion rates are calculated among sexually experienced females ages 15 through 19, the data indicate that a larger proportion of teen females were sexually experienced in 1990 than in 1980 (see Section SD 4.2) however, a smaller proportion of these sexually experienced teens obtained abortions.

Differences by Age. Older teens ages 18 or 19 have higher abortion rates than younger teens ages 15 through 17. In 1997, 1.7 percent of younger teens and 4.3 percent of older teens obtained an abortion (see Table SD 4.5.C).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁸⁵ Black, non-Hispanic teens are more likely to have had an abortion than their White, non-Hispanic and Hispanic peers (see Table SD 4.5.B).

⁸⁵ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Behavioral Health: Sexual Activity and Fertility

Table SD 4.5.A

Rate of females ages 15 through 19 experiencing pregnancy by age and by race and Hispanic origin: 1990-1997

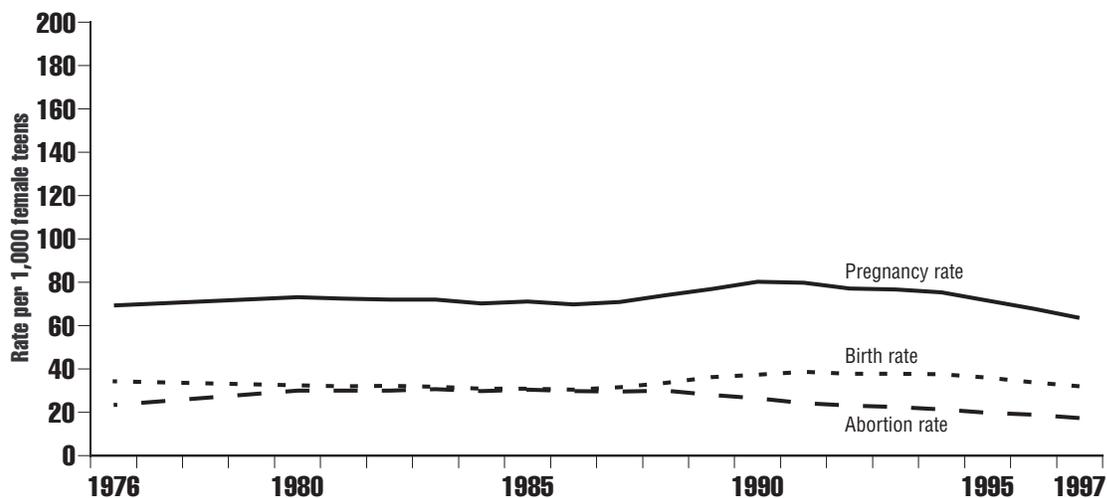
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Females 15-19 years								
Total	116.3	116.5	112.8	110.4	107.6	102.7	98.7	94.3
Race and Hispanic origin ^a								
White, non-Hispanic	87.4	84.7	79.3	76.9	74.5	71.6	68.1	65.1
Black, non-Hispanic	221.3	221.7	217.3	211.7	201.2	184.4	177.8	170.4
Hispanic	155.8	164.6	167.8	166.1	167.2	162.8	157.1	148.7
Females 15-17 years								
Total	80.3	79.8	77.3	76.8	75.5	71.7	67.8	63.7
Race and Hispanic origin ^a								
White, non-Hispanic	56.3	54.1	50.4	49.9	48.7	46.7	43.9	41.1
Black, non-Hispanic	165.0	164.6	160.4	158.0	149.8	137.0	128.1	119.8
Hispanic	101.0	107.0	110.9	110.2	113.9	110.0	105.0	99.1
Females 18 or 19 years								
Total	162.4	167.2	165.1	160.6	156.7	150.8	146.4	141.7
Race and Hispanic origin ^a								
White, non-Hispanic	126.4	126.9	121.8	117.3	114.0	110.2	105.6	102.4
Black, non-Hispanic	295.3	299.8	300.5	292.4	280.9	258.3	254.4	248.0
Hispanic	231.4	247.6	251.6	249.3	246.5	242.7	235.4	223.7

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Ventura et al., 2000, *Vital and Health Statistics Series 21*, No. 56 (Tables 3-5). Ventura et al., 2001. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4), (Table 1).

Figure SD 4.5.A

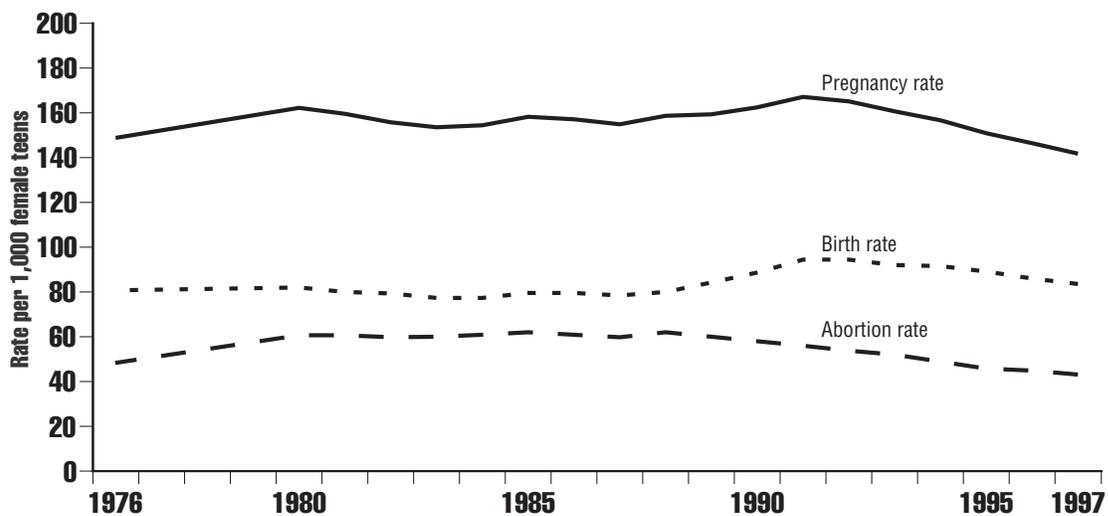
Pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates for teenagers 15-17 years: 1976-1997



Source: Ventura et al., 1999, *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 47(29), (Table 2); Ventura et al., 2001. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4), (Table 1).

Figure SD 4.5.B

Pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates for teenagers 18-19 years: 1976-1997



Source: Ventura et al., 1999, *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 47(29), (Table 2); Ventura et al., 2001. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4), (Table 1).

Behavioral Health: Sexual Activity and Fertility

Table SD 4.5.B

Percentage of females ages 15 through 19 in the United States obtaining an abortion during the year, by age and by race and Hispanic origin: 1990-1997

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Females ages 15-19								
Total	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8
Race and Hispanic origin ^a								
White, non-Hispanic	3.2	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8
Black, non-Hispanic	8.4	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.3	6.6	6.6	6.3
Hispanic	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.5
Females ages 15-17	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.7
Race and Hispanic origin ^a								
White, non-Hispanic	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2
Black, non-Hispanic	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.1
Hispanic	2.4	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.2
Females ages 18 or 19								
Total	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.3
Race and Hispanic origin ^a								
White, non-Hispanic	4.7	4.3	3.9	3.7	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.8
Black, non-Hispanic	11.7	11.6	11.7	11.5	10.8	9.8	10.0	9.7
Hispanic	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.4	6.3	5.9	6.0	5.6

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Ventura et al., 2001. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4), (Table 1).

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Table SD 4.5.C

Percentage of females under age 20 in the United States obtaining an abortion, by all females and sexually experienced females: Selected years, 1973-1997

	1973	1975	1980	1985	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
All females ages 15-19	2.3	3.1	4.3	4.4	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8
Sexually experienced females ages 15-19 ^b	5.9	7.5	9.1	8.5	7.3	6.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
All females ages 14 or younger ^a	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	—	—	—	—	—
All females ages 15-17	1.9	2.4	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.7
All females ages 18 or 19	2.9	4.2	6.1	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.3

^a Denominator is 14-year-old females.

^b Data for sexually experienced females for 1985 were interpolated from 1980 and 1988 data. Data for sexually experienced females are not available for 1992-1997. Data for females ages 14 or younger are not available for 1993-1997.

Sources: Henshaw, 1998; Alan Guttmacher Institute, Table 2; Alan Guttmacher Institute. 1994, Figure 36. Both are based on data from abortion providers and sexual experience data from the National Survey of Family Growth; also, Ventura, Mosher, Curtin, Abma, and Henshaw, *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4), (Table 1) and published and unpublished data from the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

SD 4.6 Teen Births

Research indicates that giving birth as a teen can have negative consequences on both mothers and their children. Giving birth at an early age can limit a young woman's options regarding education and employment opportunities, increase the likelihood that she will need public assistance, and can have negative effects on the development of her children. Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school (only one third receive a high school diploma)⁸⁶ and are more likely to end up on welfare (nearly 80 percent of unmarried teen mothers end up on welfare⁸⁷). The sons of teen mothers are 13 percent more likely to serve time in prison, while teen daughters are 22 percent more likely to become teen mothers themselves.⁸⁸

The birth rates for teens ages 15 through 19 have declined steadily since 1990 to the rate of 49.6 births per 1,000 teen women by 1999, a record low for the U.S. (see Table SD 4.6). The declines in the 1990s in the teenage birth rate essentially reverse the 24 percent increase that occurred from 1986.

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin. Birth rates in 1999 were highest for Black, non-Hispanic and American Indian teenagers and lowest for White, non-Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander teens, a pattern that has been observed since 1994. However, all racial and ethnic groups experienced notable declines in the 1990s. The rates for White, non-Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander teenagers fell 3 percent each, while rates for Black, non-Hispanic and American Indian teenagers declined 5 to 6 percent each. The rate for Hispanic teenagers declined less than 1 percent (see Table SD 4.6.A).

Differences by Age. Teen birth rates increase with age. In 1999, the birth rate for the oldest teens (ages 18 or 19) was 80.3 while rates for the youngest teens (ages 10 through 14) were considerably lower at 0.9.

Second- and Higher-Order Births to Teens

In 1999, more than one in five births to teen mothers was a birth of second order or higher. The proportion of teen births that were second or higher order peaked at 25 percent in 1991 but has since declined to 22 percent in 1999 (see Table SD 4.6.B). The increased use of contraceptives by teenage mothers may account for this drop in second births. Teenage mothers are increasingly using Depo-Provera and Norplant implants as their primary method of birth control. These contraceptives last longer and are more reliable than birth control pills or condoms, whose effectiveness is contingent upon proper and consistent use. In fact, one in four teenagers who already has a child used one of these two longer-lasting methods.⁸⁹

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁹⁰ Births to Black and Hispanic teens are more likely to be subsequent births than births to White, non-Hispanic teens. In 1999, 27 percent of births to Black teens, 24 percent of births to Hispanic teens, and 18 percent of births to White, non-Hispanic teens were second- or higher-order births.

⁸⁶ Maynard, R.A. (ed.). 1996. *Economic Costs and Social Consequences of Teen Pregnancy*. Washington, DC.

⁸⁷ Calculations based on the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1979-1985) in Congressional Budget Office. 1990. *Sources of Support for Adolescent Mothers*. Washington, DC: Author.

⁸⁸ Haveman, R.H., Wolfe, B., and Peterson, E. 1997. Children of Early Child Bearers as Young Adults, in Maynard, R.A. (ed.). *Kids Having Kids: Economic Costs and Social Consequences of Teen Pregnancy* (pp 257-284). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press.

⁸⁹ Ventura, Mosher, Curtin, Abma, and Henshaw. 2000. Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates by Outcome: Estimates for the United States 1976-1996. *Vital and Health Statistics Series 21* (56). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

⁹⁰ Estimates for Black teens include Hispanics of that race. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Table SD 4.6.A

Teen birth rates in the United States by age of mother and by race and Hispanic origin (births per 1,000 females in each age group): Selected years, 1960-1999

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980 ^a	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
All races												
Ages 10-14	—	—	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9
Ages 15-19	89.1	70.5	68.3	55.6	53.0	51.0	59.9	56.8	54.4	52.3	51.1	49.6
Ages 15-17	43.9	36.6	38.8	36.1	32.5	31.0	37.5	36.0	33.8	32.1	30.4	28.7
Ages 18 or 19	166.7	124.5	114.7	85.0	82.1	79.6	88.6	89.1	86.0	83.6	82.0	80.3
White, total												
Ages 10-14	—	—	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6
Ages 15-19	79.4	60.6	57.4	46.4	45.4	43.3	50.8	50.1	48.1	46.3	45.4	44.6
Ages 15-17	35.5	27.8	29.2	28.0	25.5	24.4	29.5	30.0	28.4	27.1	25.9	24.8
Ages 18 or 19	154.6	111.9	101.5	74.0	73.2	70.4	78.0	81.2	78.4	75.9	74.6	73.5
White, non-Hispanic												
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	42.5	39.3	37.6	36.0	35.2	34.0
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	—	—	—	23.2	22.0	20.6	19.4	18.4	17.1
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	—	—	—	66.6	66.1	63.7	61.9	60.6	58.9
Black, total												
Ages 10-14	—	—	5.2	5.1	4.3	4.5	4.9	4.2	3.6	3.3	2.9	2.6
Ages 15-19	156.1	144.6	140.7	111.8	97.8	95.4	112.8	96.1	91.4	88.2	85.4	81.0
Ages 15-17	—	99.3	101.4	85.6	72.5	69.3	82.3	69.7	64.7	60.8	56.8	52.0
Ages 18 or 19	—	227.6	204.9	152.4	135.1	132.4	152.9	137.1	132.5	130.1	126.9	122.8
Black, non-Hispanic												
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.0	4.3	3.8	3.4	3.0	2.7
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	116.2	99.3	94.2	90.8	88.2	83.7
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	—	—	—	84.9	72.1	66.6	62.6	58.8	53.7
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	—	—	—	157.5	141.9	136.6	134.0	130.9	126.8
Hispanic^b												
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.0
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.3	106.7	101.8	97.4	93.6	93.4
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	—	—	—	65.9	72.9	69.0	66.3	62.3	61.3
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	—	—	—	147.7	157.9	151.1	144.3	140.1	139.4
American Indian/Alaska Native												
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	—	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	82.2	79.2	81.1	78.0	73.9	71.8	72.1	67.8
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	—	51.5	47.7	48.5	47.8	46.4	45.3	44.4	41.4
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	—	129.5	124.1	129.3	130.7	122.3	117.6	118.4	110.6

continued on next page

Behavioral Health: Sexual Activity and Fertility

Table SD 4.6.A

Teen birth rates in the United States by age of mother and by race and Hispanic origin (births per 1,000 females in each age group): Selected years, 1960-1999

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980 ^a	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Asian/Pacific Islander												
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	26.2	23.8	26.4	26.1	24.6	23.7	23.1	22.3
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	—	12.0	12.5	16.0	15.4	14.9	14.3	13.8	12.3
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	—	46.2	40.8	40.2	43.4	40.4	39.3	38.3	38.0

^a Beginning in 1980, births have been tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning a child to the race of the nonwhite parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are non-White.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980, representing 90 percent of the Hispanic population. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993. Rates in 1985 were not calculated for Hispanics because estimates for populations were not available.

Sources: Ventura, et al., 2001. Births. Ventura, et al., 1999, Births, (Tables 4 and 9); Ventura, Mathews, & Curtin, 1998, Births, (Tables 1 and 2); Ventura, et al., 1998, (Table 4); Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Statistics of the United States, Volume 1, Natality. Annual Issues, Table: Birth Rates by Age of Mother and Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, 1940-97; and Mathews, et al., 1998, (Table 1).

Table SD 4.6.B

Percentage of all births to women under age 20 in the United States that are second or higher order, by marital status and by race and Hispanic origin of mother: Selected years, 1980-1999

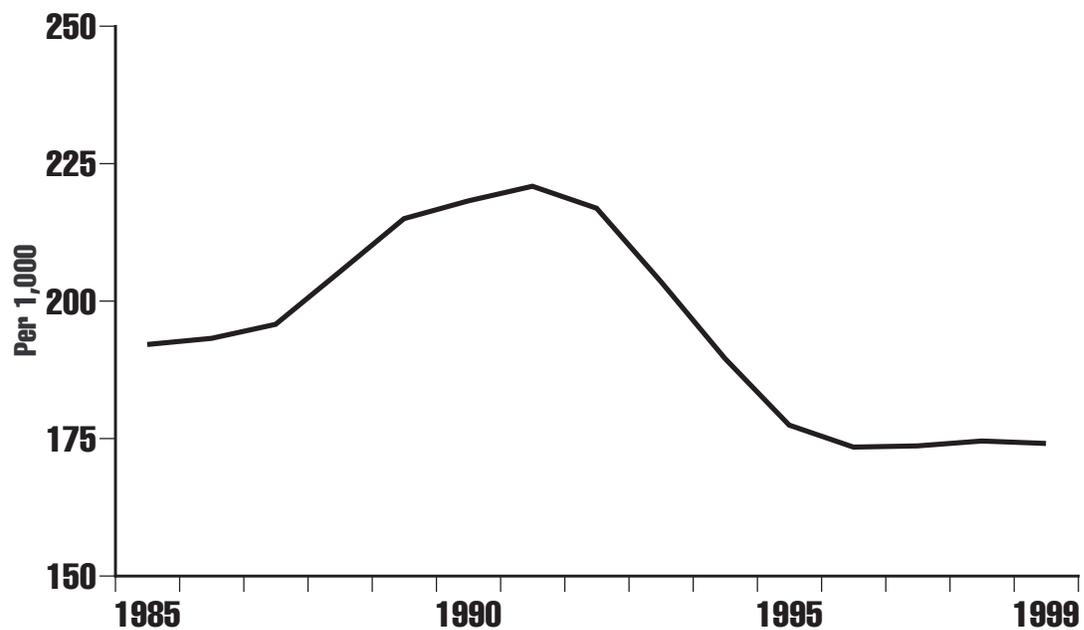
	1980	1985	1991 ^a	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 ^a
All births	22	23	25	22	21	21	22	22	22
Race and Hispanic origin^a									
White	19	20	19	17	17	17	18	18	18
Black	27	28	33	28	27	27	27	27	26
Hispanic	20	25	25	23	23	24	24	24	23
Marital status									
Married	24	26	28	26	26	27	28	29	29
Single	19	20	23	20	19	20	20	20	19

^a Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races. Beginning 1990 persons of Hispanic origin are not included; figures for Black women for 1999 include Hispanic women. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Ventura et al., 2000. Births: Final Data for 1998. Ventura et al., 2001. Births: Preliminary Data for 1999. Ventura et al., 1999, Births (Tables 2 and 7); Ventura et al., 1998, Natality 1996, (Tables 2 and 7); also previous issues of this annual report (vol. 45, No. 11, supp., tables 2 and 6; vol. 44, No. 11, supp., tables 2 and 6; vol. 42, No. 3, supp.; vol. 36, No. 4, supp.; vol. 31, No. 8, supp., table 2 in each); also unpublished tabulations, Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

Figure SD 4.6

Rate of second births to teenagers who have had a first birth: 1985-1999



Sources: Ventura et al., 2000; *Vital and Health Statistics 24*, (Table A).

Behavioral Health: Sexual Activity and Fertility